

# **Help - Frequently Asked Questions**

- 1) How can I get started quickly, with minimal instructions?
- 2) What are the definitions of the various MRIB categories?
- 3) Why are some terms used in more than one category?
- 4) Can I combine searches between categories?
- 5) How can I search by location?
- 6) How can I conduct a search for fish (or whatever)?
- 7) How do I start a new search or change the current one?
- 8) What is the difference between map and table views?
- 9) How can I have a website added to MRIB?

#### 1) How can I get started quickly, with minimal instructions?

In the MRIB, each piece of information can be found through three search strategies, which can be used separately or combined: a) Browse a Topic, b) Browse a Map, and c) Search by Keyword.

Using the *Browse a Topic* option select the category that most likely contains your subject of interest.

```
BROWSE A TOPIC

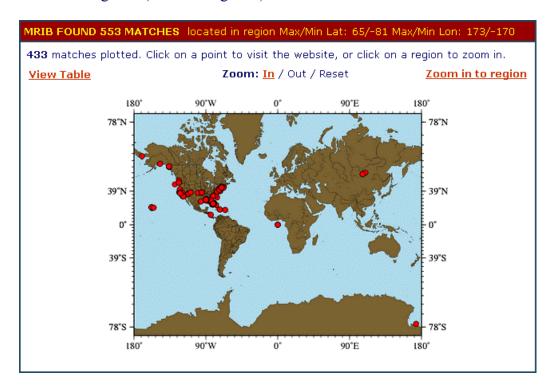
<u>Location Name</u> - <u>Geologic Time</u> - <u>Features</u> - <u>Biota</u> - <u>Discipline</u> - <u>Method</u> - <u>Hot Topics</u>

<u>Project Name</u> - <u>Agency Name</u> - <u>Author</u> - <u>Class</u> - <u>Format</u> - <u>Audience</u>
```

A list of sub-categories (and their sub-subcategories) will appear in the content cell.



Choose one of these categories (or sub-categories) and the content cell will refresh with a results-page.



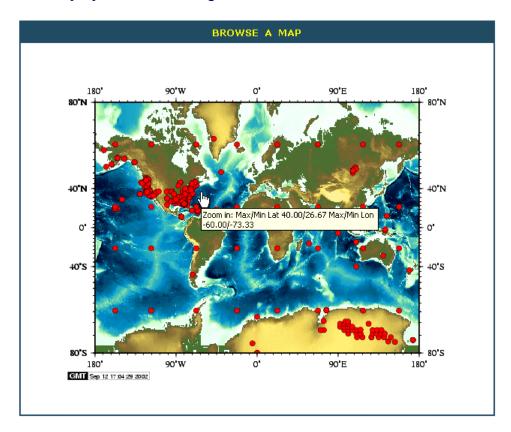
You can toggle the results between an imap (map with hyperlinks) and a table format. The table contains the Web page's title, a short description, when the study was conducted, and who was the principle investigator.

MRIB F	OUND 553 MATCHES			
Showing 1 to 20 (View <u>Map</u> ) ( <u>nex</u>				
Item	Title and description	Author	Time of data Collection	Lon/Lat
1	USGS Fact Sheet: Antarctica - The Dynamic Heart of It All Antarctica has a dynamic geological history. (Translate) View Card	<u>Cooper, Alan K.</u>	1947	154.50E 80.5S
2	Interactions of Mercury with  Dissolved Organic Carbon in the  Everglades - Abstract  This abstract describes the significance and approach of the title project.  (Translate)  View Card	<u>Aiken, George R.</u>	1995 - 1999	80.5W 26.20N
3	Interactions of Mercury with Dissolved Organic Carbon in the Florida Everglades - Metadata These metadata describe rationale, procedure, data collection, and personnel contacts for the title project. (Translate)  View Card	<u>Aiken, George R.</u>	1995 - 1999	80.5W 26.20N
4	Everglades Water Chemistry – Cations and Anions: Metadata These metadata describe rationale, dataset, and contact personnel for the title research. (Translate) View Card	<u>Aiken, George R.</u>	1995	80.51W 26.11N

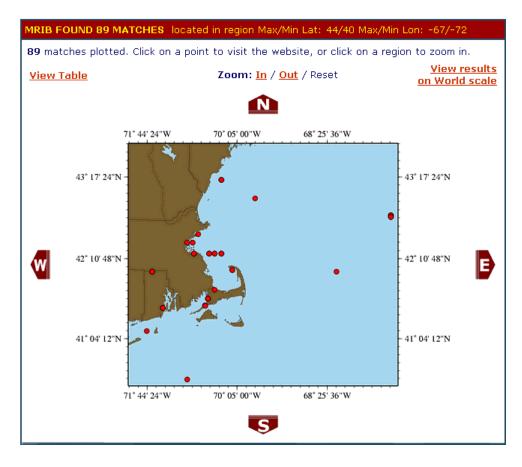
Click on a symbol (imap output) or a title (table output) and MRIB will open a new window displaying the sought information.



Using the *Browse a Map* option click on a region to zoom in the area of interest.



MRIB's content cell will display the region selected.



At this point you may further refine your search by:

- i) select a point and visit the website or click on website title if in view-table mode;
- ii) Pan and zooming to select different area;
- iii) select a category or type a keyword. The search result will be limited to the selected area.



At any point in your search, the search history menu, titled "You have selected" will show your trial.



Using the Search by Keyword option type the words related to your subject of interest.



In order to show the context within which the chosen keyword was found, MRIB content cell will not show a flat file of all matches found, but the classification-tree whereby these matches belong.

#### MRIB FOUND 9 MATCHES

Your search for keyword(s) 'aerial photography infrared' resulted in 9 records matching the following categories. Click on the links below or view <u>Table</u> or <u>Map</u> of all matches.

#### Agency

- Governments --> 9 matches
- Academic Institutions --> 1 match

#### **Audience**

Resource Management --> 4 matches

#### Author

- C
  - Callahan, Michael G. --> 3 matches
- D
- Desmond, Gregory B. --> 1 match
- F
  - Flocks, James G. --> 1 match
- IV
  - Manheim, Frank T. --> 1 match
- S
  - Stumpf, Richard P. --> 1 match

#### Class

- Data --> 3 matches
- Derived Products --> 1 match
- Knowledge --> 2 matches
- Scientific Publications --> 5 matches

## **Discipline**

- Biology --> 2 matches
- Chemistry --> 1 match
- Ecology --> 6 matches
- Engineering --> 3 matches
- Geochemistry --> 1 match
- Geography --> 7 matches
- Geology --> 3 matches
- History --> 1 match
- Mathematics --> 1 match
- Meteorology --> 1 match
- Oceanography --> 4 matches

#### 2) What are the definitions of the various MRIB categories?

In MRIB information is classified on the basis of 13 *Facet* (top level categories), and each Facet contains an *Authority list* of *Controlled Terms* (information sub-categories). Combining these *Controlled Terms* the users of MRIB defines their search path.

Following is an explanation of the 13 Facets.

**Location:** the named location or locations with which the research is concerned. It is also possible to use the Location facet to view a map of all indexed information sources worldwide.

**Geologic Time:** the named unit or units of time which the research addresses. MRIB uses Grant's 1999 scale.

**Feature:** a general type of place or large thing with which the information source is concerned. This includes biological zones (such as forests or the benthos), large constructed things (such as dams or satellites), geographical places (like First Nations Lands or National Seashores), geological things (such as subduction zones or sediments), phases of groundwater (such as the groundwater itself or the aquifer), types of ice (such as sea ice or glaciers), and landforms (such as oceans or mountains).

**Biota:** the scientific, hierarchical names of organisms described in an information sources based on the collaborative phylogeny of Arizona's Tree of Life.

**Discipline:** the traditional academic area within which an information source falls.

**Method:** means by which the research was accomplished, in as specific terms as are available from the information source (for instance, 2.7-kHz subbottom geophysical profiling in the field, laboratory chemical analyses of organic compounds, or interviewing). "Method" is divided into the main supercategories Field Observations, Laboratory, Interviewing, and Data Processing.

**Hot Topic:** a matter of concern to people. This includes the sub-categories Resources (such as minerals and cultural sites), Disasters (such as hurricanes and mitigation efforts), Environment (such as fragile habitats and pollution's interactions with sediment), and Science (such as methodology and policy). Hot topic is particularly subcategorized so that the level of selection detail is high.

**Project Name:** the official title, if specified by the information source, of the research or other project to which the information references or belong.

**Agency Name :** government, non-profit, academic, business, coalition, or other organizations which participated in the creation of an information source – by funding or conducting research, interpreting data, publishing, or some other method.

**Author:** the principle investigator of the research about which the information source speaks, but not necessarily the author of the website itself. For instance, if Jane Doe does research and John Smith puts up a Web page about it, MRIB will list Jane Doe as the "author". On the other hand, if several authors synthesize a large body of research produced by multiple other researchers, the synthesizing authors will be considered MRIB authors.

**Classes:** the stage or level of transformation and interpretation of the project's raw data. The classes sub-categories are:

*Data:* "raw" information which has not been interpreted (although it may have been corrected at a low level). Examples include output from scientific equipment, basic topographic maps, and satellite help/images.

*Derived\_Products*: information that has been interpreted or analyzed at a primary level. Examples include plots which do not provide the coordinates, geologic maps, or analytical/numerical models.

*Knowledge:* generalizations about a subject. Examples include scientific information presented in a non-technical or general format and conceptual models.

*Predictions*: predictions about the behavior of a system under given circumstances. It should be noted that "predictions" does not necessarily denote future tense; predictions may also be made about the past (for instance, modeled predictions about a palaeo-ocean), testable hypotheses, etc.

*References*: lists of publications, Web sites, or other materials related to a specific discipline, project, or other topic.

Scientific\_Publications: formal scientific publications, usually in the standardized report format or as the abstract of such a report. Scientific publications, frequently include other Classes of information. Format: the way or ways in which information is presented; includes such categories as image, text, sound, and movie.

**Audience:** a group of people for whom an information source is specifically intended – such as educators, policy makers, or people concerned with public health.

# 3) Why are some terms used in more than one category?

By their nature, some *Controlled Terms* (information sub-categories) may fit in more than one *Facet* (top level category). Additionally, the placement of a term in multiple categories reflects differences in a user approach to the term. A good example of this is sediments. You can find the root "sediment" in the following places:

Disciplines/Sedimentology/Geology Features/Geological/Sediment Hot Topics/Habitat/Sediment Hot Topic/Environment/Sediment/Erosion Methods/Laboratory/Sedimentology Each value's placement in a category and possibly as a subterm adds meaning. For example, one might want to examine the hydrology of groundwater that flows through a loose sand. The study would likely not be specifically of sedimentological nature, and unless it were, it would be placed under:

#### Methods/Laboratory/Sedimentology

or

#### Disciplines/Geology/Hydrology

Rather than:

#### Disciplines/Geology/Sedimentology

In considering a term, it is always useful to consider under what category it is in, and in which hierarchy it belongs. Each layer adds more qualifying information.

## 4) Can I combine searches between categories?

Yes, and you can also combine multiple entries within a category. For example, suppose that your selection history reads: Discipline/Biology/Icthyology, and that you want to refine the search including Methodology and then Hot Topics. You could proceed as follow:

- a) Select Methodology from the selection menu
- b) The content cell will display a list of Methodology's sub-categories
- c) Choose one

YOU HAVE SELECTED:
Discipline Method Biology Icthyology
YOU MAY FURTHER REFINE YOUR SEARCH BY CHOOSING:
<u>Location Name - Geologic Time - Features - Biota - Discipline - Method - Hot Topics</u> <u>Project Name - Agency Name - Author - Class - Format - Audience</u>
Search MRIB Method for: Go Search
MRIB FOUND 24 MATCHES
Method (View Table or Map of all matches)  • Data Processing> 2 matches  • Field Observation> 23 matches  • Biology> 16 matches  • Pathogens> 2 matches  • Trapping> 5 matches  • Tracking> 1 match  • Toxicity> 5 matches  • Gut nalyses> 3 matches  • Profiling> 2 matches  • Profiling> 2 matches  • Subbottom> 2 matches  • Airgun> 1 match  • Remote Sensing> 1 match  • Oceanography> 3 matches  • Water> 3 matches  • Photography> 4 matches  • Sampling> 4 matches

d) The content cell will display a result page, either in imap or table format

# YOU HAVE SELECTED: Discipline Biology Icthyology Field Observation Biology Toxicity YOU MAY FURTHER REFINE YOUR SEARCH BY CHOOSING:

<u>Location Name</u> - <u>Geologic Time</u> - <u>Features</u> - <u>Biota</u> - <u>Discipline</u> - <u>Method</u> - <u>Hot Topics</u> <u>Project Name</u> - <u>Agency Name</u> - <u>Author</u> - <u>Class</u> - <u>Format</u> - <u>Audience</u>

for:

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4		
	(View Table)	•



Go

#### MRIB FOUND 5 MATCHES

Showing 1 to 5 (View Map)

Item	Title and description	Author	Time of data Collection	Lon/Lat
1	Evaluating Food Chain Relations Using Stable Isotopes - Abstract Report, abstracted here, discusses tracking the bioaccumulation of methylmercury through the food chain by stable carbon, nitrogen, and sulfur isotope analysis.  (Translate)  View Card	Kendall, Carol Garrison, Paul Lange, Ted Simon, Nancy S. Krabbenhoft, David P. Steinitz, Daniel Chang, Cecily C.	1994 - 1997	80.83W 26.25N
2	Spatial Distributions of Isotopic Compositions of Gambusia and Periphyton at REMAP Marsh Sites in the Everglades - Abstract Report, abstracted here, asserts that spatial distribution of various isotopes in fish guts yields useful information about general environmental conditions.  (Translate)  View Card	<u>Kendall, Carol</u> <u>Stober, Q. Jerry</u> <u>Meyer, Phyllis</u> <u>Silva, Steven R.</u>	1996	80.83W 26.25N
3	Spatial Distributions of Isotopic Compositions of Gambusia and Periphyton at REMAP Marsh Sites in the Everglades - Metadata Describes collection, quality control, distribution, and contact personnel for data of the title project. (Translate)  View Card	<u>Kendall, Carol</u> <u>Stober, Q. Jerry</u> <u>Meyer, Phyllis</u> Silva, Steven R.	1996	80.83W 26.25N

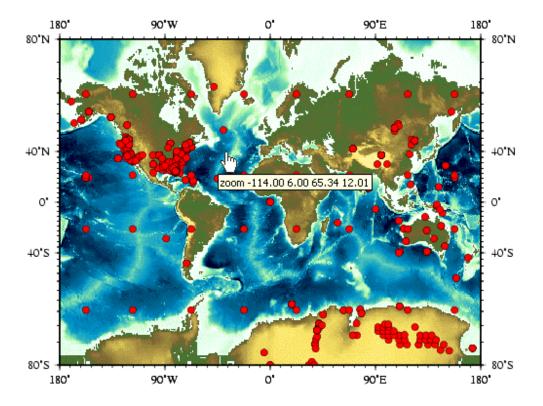
#### e) Repeat this process selecting hot topics

YOU HAVE SELECTED:		
<b>Zoom</b> : Max/Min Lat: 32/23, Max/Min Lon: -73/-87		
Keywords: 'wetland', 'everglades'		
Discipline Biology Field Observ Biology Toxicity	Hot Topics ation Environment Habitat Human Impacts	

One can refine a search combining all the available categories.

# 5) How can I search by location?

You can zoom-in the map by clicking on areas not containing symbols (hyperlinks). A mouse-over flag will display the bounding box (in latitude and longitude) of the zoom area before actually opening-it. If you click on a symbol, a new window will open up display the remote location.



You can also perform a search by location using the gazetteer in the location category.

```
Location Name

    Oceans

         o Arctic Ocean --> 15 matches
         o Atlantic Ocean --> 1074 matches
              ■ North Atlantic --> 809 matches

    South Atlantic --> 91 matches

         o Indian Ocean --> 50 matches
         o Pacific Ocean --> 1417 matches

    North Pacific --> 1069 matches

              ■ South Pacific --> 306 matches
   · Continental Coasts
         o Americas --> 1340 matches

    North America --> 1041 matches

    Atlantic Coast --> 729 matches

                    ■ Pacific Coast --> 369 matches
                    ■ United States --> 957 matches
                          ■ East Coast --> 731 matches
                                ■ <u>Cape Cod</u> --> 41 matches
                          ■ West Coast --> 301 matches
                                ■ Central California --> 128 matches
              • Central America --> 63 matches

    South America --> 66 matches

    Atlantic Coast --> 2 matches

    Pacific Coast --> 64 matches

         o Africa --> 11 matches

    Atlantic Coast --> 7 matches

              ■ Indian Ocean Coast --> 1 match
         o Asia --> 51 matches
              ■ <u>Indian Ocean Coast</u> --> 2 matches
              ■ North Pacific Coast --> 2 matches
              ■ South Pacific Coast --> 2 matches
         o Australia --> 1 match
              ■ Indian Ocean Coast --> 31 matches
               ■ Pacific Coast --> 4 matches
         o Europe --> 13 matches

    Seas and Gulfs

         o Americas --> 1340 matches
              • North America --> 1108 matches
                    ■ Baffin Bay --> 1 match

    Bering Sea --> 4 matches

                    • Carribbean Sea --> 77 matches
                                                                          K
                    ■ Chesapeake Bay --> 21 matches
                    • Greenland Sea --> 1 match

    Gulf of Alaska --> 18 matches

    Gulf of California --> 1 match

    Gulf of Maine --> 104 matches

    Gulf of Mexico --> 413 matches

                    ■ <u>Labrador Sea</u> --> 1 match
                    ■ Monterey Bay --> 57 matches
                    ■ San Francisco Bay --> 43 matches
                    ■ Tampa Bay --> 20 matches
              ■ South America --> 79 matches

    Carribbean Sea --> 77 matches

         o Africa --> 8 matches
              • Gulf of Guinea --> 7 matches
           Asia --> 67 matches
```

#### 6) How can I conduct a search for fish (or whatever)?

#### The MRIB thinking process.

Always remember that MRIB allows multiple approaches to get to the same information; you can search by topic, by map and by keyword. Give some thought to how you might categorize the subject you want to search, and read the following example on how to approach the MRIB selection menu.

- i) From the browse a map option, you may start zooming-in to a geographical area of interest, but you will need to use either the topic or the keyword search to actually focus on fish.
- ii) From the browse a topic option you need to choose the most likely category containing fish.

You are not likely to find it in the Location or Geotime category. If you are thinking of a particular project which studied fish, you might find relevant information under Project Name. However, if you, like most people, are not aware of specific projects in your area of interest continue looking at the list. Features include a set of Biological features. One of these is **Biological/Benthos** If you are looking only for seafloor-dwelling fish, you might choose to use that path.

If instead you are interested in fish that swim near the surface, Disciplines includes a set of Biology disciplines. One of these is ichthyology, the study of fish.

Methods might be useful if you know of or are interested in a specific way to study fish.

Hot topic might be useful to find relevant information only if you are interested in specific environmental issues related to fish – such as coral reef fragility.

Unless you know of an agency – such as National Fisheries Service – or an author who has done work with fish, and would like to limit yourself to their research, Agency Name and Author Name will not useful category to search.

Biota lists organisms by their scientific names. Since scientific names are confusing, we have provided a list of scientific names that correlate to more colloquial terms. If you check this, you will note that most jawed fish are found under:

Eukaryota/Metozoa/Chordata/Craniata/Vertebrata/Gnathostomata/Actinopterygii.

iii) From the search by keyword option, select the category you wish to search and then type fish.

# 7) How do I start a new search or change the current one?

You can always reset the search completely and start a new one, or change the value for any category at a later time. To start a new search click on the icon "New Search" and you will be placed back on the start page.

YOU MAY FURT	THER REFINE YOUR S	EARCH BY CHOOSING:		
<u> Location Name - Geologic Time - Features - Biota - Discipline - Method - Hot Topics</u> <u>Project Name - Agency Name - Author - Class - Format - Audience</u>				
Search MRIB	(View Map)	for:	Go	New Search

To change values on a search under way use the selection history menu at the top of the page. Let us suppose you want to change the current search from:

Discipline/Oceanography/Dynamics Method/Data\_Processing Hot Topics/Disaster/Storm

to:

Discipline/Oceanography/Dynamics Method/Data\_Processing Hot Topics/Disaster/*Erosion* 

Go to your selection history menu and click the term hierarchically above on the category you want to change (in this example Disasters). \*Note that everything below the selected term will be removed\*



A list of sub-category will appear in the content cell. Select the new sub-category (in this example Erosion).

YOU HAVE SELECTED:
Location Name Discipline Method Hot Topics Oceans Oceanography Data Processing Atlantic Ocean Dynamics North Atlantic
YOU MAY FURTHER REFINE YOUR SEARCH BY CHOOSING:
<u>Location Name - Geologic Time - Features - Biota - Discipline - Method - Hot Topics</u> <u>Project Name - Agency Name - Author - Class - Format - Audience</u>
Search MRIB Hot Topics for: Go Search
MRIB FOUND 22 MATCHES
Hot Topics (View Table or Map of all matches)  • Environment> 18 matches  • Sediment> 6 matches  • Deposition> 3 matches  • Waste Disposal> 1 match  • Erosion> 2 matches  • Dredging> 1 match  • Natural> 1 match  • Interaction with Pollutants> 1 match  • Iransport> 3 matches  • Lurents> 4 matches  • Currents> 5 matches  • Fragile> 5 matches  • Human Impacts> 10 matches  • Sediments> 4 matche  • Sediments> 1 match  • Stability> 1 match  • Climate Change> 1 match  • Sea Level> 1 match  • Sea Level> 1 match  • Decological Change> 6 matches  • Restoration> 6 matches  • Restoration> 6 matches  • Nutrients> 1 match  • Interaction with Sediments> 2 matches  • Nutrients> 1 match  • Waste Disposal> 2 matches  • Sewage Outfalls> 2 matches
Disasters> 6 matches     Erosion> 2 matches     Storm > 5 matches      Hurricanes> 5 matches
<ul> <li>Resources&gt; 13 matches</li> <li><u>Water</u>&gt; 13 matches</li> <li><u>Control</u>&gt; 6 matches</li> <li><u>Quality</u>&gt; 6 matches</li> </ul>

#### 8) What is the difference between map and table views?

Map views, although they enable the user to choose objects associated with specific locations, do not provide as much general information about the object as table views, which list object titles, principal investigators, an abstract, and the data collection period for the study or studies. Additionally, the EIC card for an information object – which lists all the categories to which a object is classified— is available from table but not map view; map view links only to the objects themselves.

On the other hand, map view is the best way to pinpoint a specific study location. You can switch between map and table views at any time by clicking on the words "view map" or "view table" in the content cell.

#### 9) How can I have a website added to MRIB?

Click on **Register a Website** and fill out the form (A more effective system is under development).

http://mrib.usqs.qov Last modified: November 20, 2001 Contact: MRIB Team U.S. Geological Survey 384 Woods Hole Road Woods Hole, MA 02543



